



Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing

Ms Shelley Wilkins
Executive Director
Citizens Commission on Human Rights
PO Box 6402
North Sydney
NSW 2059

Dear Ms Wilkins

Thank you for your request for information on antipsychotics subsidised under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) for the year ending 30 June 2008. The data requested is at Attachment A. Information on antipsychotics subsidised under the Repatriation Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (RPBS) has also been included. As requested, the age of patient has been calculated as the end of June 2008.

In the year ending 30 June 2008, total expenditure on PBS/RPBS subsidised antipsychotics for under 18 year olds was \$3.4m while total expenditure for persons aged 65 and over was \$59.0m. This was 1.0% and 17.1% respectively of the total PBS/RPBS expenditure on antipsychotic drugs over the same period.

Please note that as with any administrative data source, a small error component is always present. Previous investigative work with Medicare Australia has shown that this can be particularly evident in the very young age groups, where lower rates of prescription medicine use would be expected. As such, the data in the following tables in the younger age groups should be used with caution.

Yours sincerely

Stephen Dellar
Acting First Assistant Secretary
Pharmaceutical Benefits Division

April 2009

Attachment A

Table 1. Number of patients who had at least one prescription filled for a PBS/RPBS listed antipsychotic drug in the 2007-08 year, by age and State/Territory.

Patient Age	State ²								Australia
	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	
0 years	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
1 year	5	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	5
2 years	5	4	5	*	4	*	*	*	18
3 years	12	6	18	*	*	*	*	*	36
4 years	22	21	21	9	*	*	*	*	73
5 years	48	43	46	15	7	5	*	*	164
6 years	69	57	79	18	9	*	*	*	232
7-10 years	592	291	553	145	67	25	*	21	1,694
11-15 years	1,280	668	957	282	200	43	16	59	3,505
16-18 years	1,318	873	754	269	272	73	13	70	3,642
19-65 years	59,811	49,609	33,144	16,376	14,469	3,987	913	2,677	180,986
66 years	890	780	519	246	229	71	11	35	2,781
67 years	859	721	473	205	229	64	10	26	2,587
68 years	938	798	497	232	225	56	10	29	2,785
69 years	864	708	480	214	236	42	11	27	2,582
70 years	923	769	512	258	231	51	8	32	2,784
71 years	885	789	496	209	202	85	13	22	2,701
72 years	990	804	474	260	239	65	8	28	2,868
73 years	918	812	469	221	227	71	4	30	2,752
74 years	899	853	481	250	199	74	5	21	2,782
75 years	1,042	859	507	263	237	78	4	30	3,020
76 years	1,089	880	568	322	293	72	5	21	3,250
77 years	1,168	890	617	316	291	90	8	24	3,404
78 years	1,188	1,070	637	346	323	71	7	27	3,669
79 years	1,407	1,029	687	362	299	111	13	34	3,942
80 years	1,269	1,080	764	416	323	98	6	31	3,987
81 years and over	16,917	14,227	9,471	5,557	4,354	1,286	67	424	52,303
Age unknown ¹	54	37	28	8	16	6	*	*	149
TOTALS	95,462	78,678	53,257	26,799	23,181	6,524	1,132	3,668	288,701

(1) 'Age unknown' is where the Departments administrative systems do not contain enough information to accurately determine a patient's age.

(2) Patient State/Territory is the first State/Territory of the patient in the year. If a patient moves within a year then the data reflects their initial State/Territory.

* indicates that a table cell was 3 or less and has been suppressed for confidentiality reasons. Suppressed cell values have not been included in totals.

Table 2 contains information by generic drug name. As patients may have received more than one of the indicated drugs within the year, the individual drug totals will not add to the total number of patients.

Table 2 Continued

Table 2. Number of patients who had at least one prescription filled for a PBS/RPBS listed antipsychotic drug in the 2007-08 year, by generic drug name, age and State/Territory.

Drug name	Patient Age	State ²								Australia
		NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	
AMISULPRIDE	0 years	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	1 year	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	2 years	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	3 years	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	4 years	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	5 years	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	6 years	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	7-10 years	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	11-15 years	11	4	*	*	*	*	*	*	15
	16-18 years	40	24	15	4	7	*	*	5	95
	19-65 years	4,583	2,784	2,078	902	1,073	173	67	217	11,877
	66 years	20	30	13	4	5	*	*	*	72
	67 years	33	22	7	7	4	*	*	*	73
	68 years	28	23	13	*	7	*	*	*	71
	69 years	20	14	10	5	12	*	*	*	61
	70 years	27	22	13	*	11	*	*	*	73
	71 years	17	16	5	5	*	*	*	*	43
	72 years	18	15	4	4	5	*	*	*	46
	73 years	16	9	4	*	*	*	*	*	29
	74 years	14	14	6	4	*	*	*	*	38
	75 years	16	14	*	4	4	*	*	*	38
	76 years	12	4	6	*	*	*	*	*	22
	77 years	11	15	7	9	4	*	*	*	46
	78 years	21	7	4	*	*	*	*	*	32
79 years	14	5	4	*	*	*	*	*	23	
80 years	15	11	4	*	*	*	*	*	30	
81 years and over	59	55	18	16	12	*	*	*	160	
Age unknown ¹	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
AMISULPRIDE Total		4,975	3,088	2,211	964	1,144	173	67	222	12,844
ARIPRAZOLE	0 years	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	1 year	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	2 years	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	3 years	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	4 years	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	5 years	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	6 years	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	7-10 years	17	*	*	5	*	*	*	*	22
	11-15 years	87	6	13	23	*	*	*	6	135
	16-18 years	126	48	44	25	33	*	*	6	282
	19-65 years	3,819	4,208	2,268	1,006	1,150	208	40	228	12,927
	66 years	26	17	15	13	5	*	*	*	76
	67 years	14	23	14	8	8	*	*	*	67
	68 years	19	20	7	*	*	*	*	*	46

Attachment A

Table 2 Continued

Drug name	Patient Age	State ²								Australia
		NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	
	67 years	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	68 years	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	69 years	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	70 years	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	71 years	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	72 years	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	73 years	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	74 years	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	75 years	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	76 years	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	77 years	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	78 years	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	79 years	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	80 years	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	81 years and over	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	Age unknown ¹	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
PALIPERIDONE Total		90	91	42	32	*	7	*	*	262
	0 years	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	1 year	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	2 years	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	3 years	*	*	4	*	*	*	*	*	4
	4 years	*	*	5	4	*	*	*	*	9
	5 years	*	*	5	7	*	*	*	*	12
	6 years	*	*	6	5	*	*	*	*	11
	7-10 years	8	29	25	55	6	6	*	*	129
	11-15 years	12	72	39	89	15	*	*	*	227
	16-18 years	19	49	29	49	14	*	*	*	160
	19-65 years	1,703	1,025	1,183	1,549	500	73	37	24	6,094
	66 years	36	24	29	39	13	*	4	*	145
	67 years	36	24	30	32	9	*	*	*	131
	68 years	33	32	26	30	16	*	*	*	137
	69 years	43	17	18	27	14	*	*	*	119
	70 years	36	27	20	32	14	*	*	*	129
	71 years	44	18	17	35	7	*	*	*	121
	72 years	38	22	17	40	16	*	*	*	133
	73 years	39	25	20	31	15	*	*	*	130
	74 years	37	19	18	35	12	*	*	*	121
	75 years	25	21	18	37	10	*	*	*	111
	76 years	39	32	23	47	13	*	*	*	154
	77 years	36	30	14	44	18	*	*	*	142
	78 years	43	28	14	58	22	*	*	*	165
	79 years	48	35	13	59	22	*	*	4	181
	80 years	50	35	12	75	22	*	*	*	194
	81 years and over	646	453	160	1,284	371	21	*	*	2,935
	Age unknown ¹	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
PERICYAZINE Total		2,971	2,017	1,745	3,663	1,129	100	41	28	11,694

Table 2 Continued

Drug name	Patient Age	State ²								Australia
		NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	
QUETIAPINE FUMARATE	0 years	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	1 year	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	2 years	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	3 years	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	4 years	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	5 years	4	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	4
	6 years	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	7-10 years	20	*	6	*	4	*	*	*	30
	11-15 years	123	43	56	11	23	*	*	*	256
	16-18 years	354	235	162	32	89	12	4	18	906
	19-65 years	13,315	11,876	7,695	3,853	4,130	791	195	661	42,516
	66 years	122	123	70	44	36	6	*	*	401
	67 years	136	97	46	24	25	8	*	4	340
	68 years	123	93	55	29	33	4	*	7	344
	69 years	126	105	65	29	36	6	*	*	367
	70 years	135	88	56	38	28	*	*	5	350
	71 years	136	99	67	25	22	5	*	*	354
	72 years	123	96	53	29	35	5	*	*	341
	73 years	113	121	38	21	20	4	*	4	321
	74 years	98	104	44	25	24	7	*	*	302
	75 years	125	115	56	28	42	*	*	*	366
	76 years	140	118	50	31	38	5	*	*	382
	77 years	137	100	47	37	37	7	*	*	365
78 years	125	145	41	36	37	8	*	4	396	
79 years	155	133	54	26	29	4	*	*	401	
80 years	134	132	45	39	30	4	*	4	388	
81 years and over	1,242	1,295	376	328	346	29	4	26	3,646	
Age unknown ¹	*	6	*	*	*	*	*	*	6	
QUETIAPINE FUMARATE Total		16,986	15,124	9,082	4,685	5,064	905	203	733	52,782
RISPERIDONE	0 years	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	1 year	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	2 years	*	*	5	*	*	*	*	*	5
	3 years	11	6	12	*	*	*	*	*	29
	4 years	18	18	14	5	*	*	*	*	55
	5 years	41	36	39	9	4	4	*	*	133
	6 years	66	48	70	11	8	*	*	*	203
	7-10 years	533	246	503	90	53	17	*	17	1,459
	11-15 years	975	455	780	160	125	32	15	38	2,580
	16-18 years	548	357	386	125	105	31	9	27	1,588
	19-65 years	13,435	11,519	8,882	4,101	3,545	943	285	607	43,317
	66 years	193	166	130	50	73	18	*	10	640
	67 years	183	172	119	46	66	13	*	5	604
	68 years	218	209	131	48	56	13	*	7	682
	69 years	200	166	125	59	64	11	*	7	632
	70 years	212	223	154	59	62	10	*	13	733
71 years	220	215	134	52	61	29	8	7	726	

Attachment A

Table 2 Continued

Drug name	Patient Age	State ²								Australia
		NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	
	77 years	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	78 years	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	79 years	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	80 years	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	81 years and over	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	Age unknown ¹	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
ZIPRASIDONE HYDROCHLORIDE Total		1,162	1,013	345	396	417	78	12	54	3,477
ZUCLOPENTHIXOL DECANOATE	0 years	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	1 year	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	2 years	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	3 years	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	4 years	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	5 years	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	6 years	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	7-10 years	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	11-15 years	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	16-18 years	*	5	*	*	*	*	*	*	5
	19-65 years	1,592	1,555	513	745	161	75	15	115	4,771
	66 years	15	12	5	6	*	*	*	*	38
	67 years	14	8	6	6	*	*	*	*	28
	68 years	6	11	5	6	4	*	*	*	32
	69 years	8	14	6	5	*	*	*	*	33
	70 years	17	4	4	8	*	*	*	*	33
	71 years	9	7	*	*	*	*	*	*	16
	72 years	6	6	*	4	*	*	*	*	16
	73 years	10	11	*	*	*	*	*	*	21
	74 years	4	4	*	*	*	*	*	*	8
	75 years	6	8	*	*	*	*	*	*	14
	76 years	9	4	4	*	*	*	*	*	17
	77 years	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
78 years	9	4	*	*	*	*	*	*	13	
79 years	14	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	14	
80 years	6	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	6	
81 years and over	31	15	13	7	10	*	*	*	76	
Age unknown ¹	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
ZUCLOPENTHIXOL DECANOATE Total		1,756	1,668	556	781	175	75	15	115	5,141
Grand Total ³		95,462	78,678	53,257	26,799	23,181	6,524	1,132	3,668	288,701

(1) 'Age unknown' is where the Departments administrative systems do not contain enough information to accurately determine a patient's age.

(2) Patient State/Territory is the first State/Territory of the patient in the year. If a patient moves within a year then the data reflects their initial State/Territory.

(3) 'Grand Total' is not equal to the sum of individual drug totals as patients may have accessed more than one drug during the year. 'Grand Total' is a unique count of patients.

* indicates that a table cell was 3 or less and has been suppressed for confidentiality reasons. Suppressed cell values have not been included in totals.